

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN
Monday, the 20th day of January 2025 / 30th pousha, 1946
BAIL APPL. NO. 778 OF 2025**

CRIME NO.41/2025 OF CANTONMENT POLICE STATION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

PETITIONER(S)/ACCUSED NO'S 1 & 2:

- 1. ARUN KUMAR K, AGED 46 YEARS, CONSULTING EDITOR, REPORTER BROADCASTING COMPANY PVT LTD, REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT COLONY, NORTH KALAMASSERY, ERNAKULAM, S/O K.KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI, KALANGUMKARA (H), MARTHANDUMKARA P.O, YEROR, ANCHAL, KOLLAM, PIN-691312**
- 2. SHABAS AHAMMED S, AGED 24 YEARS, SUB EDITOR-DIGITAL, REPORTER BROADCASTING COMPANY PVT LTD, REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT COLONY, NORTH KALAMASSERY, ERNAKULAM, S/O SHAMSUDHEEN, ATHIKKAL (H), MANNUR P.O, PALAKKAD, PIN - 678642**

RESPONDENT(S)/COMPLAINANT:

STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, PIN - 682031

This Bail Application coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and upon hearing the arguments of SRI.P.VIJAYA BHANU (SENIOR.) along with M/S. P.K.VARGHESE, M.T.SAMEER, DHANESH V.MADHAVAN, JERRY MATHEW, REGHU SREEDHARAN & DEVIKA K.R., Advocates for the petitioners, and of PUBLIC PROSECUTOR for the respondent, the court passed the following:

P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN, J.

B.A. No.778 of 2025

Dated this the 20th day of January, 2025

ORDER

Heard the learned Senior Counsel Sri.P. Vijayabhanu,
as instructed by Sri.P.K. Varghese.

2. The offences alleged against the petitioners in
Crime No.41/2025 of Cantonment Police Station,
Thiruvananthapuram, are under Sections 11(i) and 12 of the
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The 1st
petitioner is the Consulting Editor and the 2nd petitioner is the
Sub Editor-Digital of a Malayalam News Channel known as
'Reporter'.

3. Admittedly there is no grievance to the victim
child and the parents of the child. The maximum punishment
that can be imposed for an offence under Section 12 of the
POCSO Act is below three years. Therefore I am of the
considered opinion that the petitioners are entitled interim bail.

3. If the petitioners are arrested in connection with Crime No.41/2025 of Cantonment Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram, they shall be released on bail after executing self bond.

The Public Prosecutor will get instructions.

Post on 03.02.2025.

sd/-

**P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN
JUDGE**

JV

